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CONTENTS.

PAGE.

EDITORIAL	123—125
What the Conference at The Hague May be Expected to Accomplish.	
EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE	125—126
Opening of the Peace Conference	
EDITORIAL NOTES	126—128
Temperance Women—Christian Endeavorers—National W. C. T. U.—Court of the Small Powers—The Samoan Trouble—The Ludicrousness of it .	
BREVITIES	128
Manifesto of the Czar. <i>Poem, John Collins</i>	129
Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society	129
Annual Report of the Directors of the American Peace Society	130
Militarism—The Enemy of Civilization. <i>Rev. Joseph May</i>	134
The Best of all Banners. <i>Poem, F. P. Williams</i>	138
Peace Manifesto of the Workers of Great Britain to the Workers of all Countries	140
He Would go Wild	141
Should be Speedily Terminated	141
A Plea to Peace. <i>Poem, Ella Wheeler Wilcox</i>	141

What the Conference at The Hague may be expected to Accomplish.

There are several reasons why important results may be expected from the Conference at The Hague, which will be in session when this number of the ADVOCATE is published. The age of the Czar and his position in the political world will cause him to put forth every influence of which he is capable to have the Conference result in as much as possible of what he has proposed. His reputation, both for wisdom and for sincerity, is involved in the outcome; and to a larger extent than many suppose the future internal peace and industrial development of his empire are likewise involved. Russia, therefore, will not only desire and work for the largest results, but she will be ready to make important concessions in order to obtain them.

The seriousness with which for the most part

the governments invited have taken the matter also augurs good results. Almost without exception they have appointed as delegates able men of large experience, many of whom are known to be in thorough sympathy with the purposes for which the Conference has been called. It does not stand to reason that either these men or the governments sending them will be content to have the Conference consume itself in mere idle and wrangling discussions, and end in failure.

Supporting this contention is also to be reckoned the large expression of intelligent public interest in every country which will have delegates at The Hague. This interest has continued unabated since the Rescript was published nine months ago, and in many parts of the civilized world has grown in intensity up to the last moment.

A third and most weighty reason for believing that the Conference will not prove fruitless is the absolute necessity of speedy relief from the vast and growing burdens of European militarism. This is the chief cause of the meeting of the Conference, and it may be expected to work as effectively in bringing good results from the deliberations as it did in calling the Conference into existence. Failure to find means of relief in this direction will be almost equal to the opening of the great war which has been so long talked of. At any rate, failure to make things better will, as John Morley has declared, almost certainly make them much worse.

Those who believe, as we do, that the Spirit of God is in the movement see a still deeper and stronger reason for believing that some really important results will be attained. The mere meeting of the Conference means much, as has been often said. Yes, but the time for mere meetings and discussions has about gone by. The Pan-American Conference met and talked and drew a treaty. But nothing came